



Newsletter

New Year Musings from the Chair

A very Happy New Year to you all. Last term was, in my view, a real triumph for the choir. Learning and performing the music for two concerts and a carol service was never going to be easy, but we seemed to do it really rather well.

The Trustees were delighted that we were invited to perform at the Crowborough Remembers Community Festival Concert. It was a learning curve for all of us, as we hadn't taken part in a concert run by a non-choral organisation before, but it was most successful.

Our Armistice Concert in Rotherfield was also a very special and memorable occasion. Andrew Campling, the composer of *Dona Nobis Pacem*, has invited the choir to join him and other choirs who have sung the piece to perform it in a London venue at a date to be arranged in 2019.

The High Hurstwood Carols by Candlelight

was, as ever, a very fitting start to the Christmas season. The service was enhanced by having the church's own instrumentalists to accompany the choir, in addition to our own Andrew Wilson on the organ.

Our thanks go to Mark for leading us so ably through such a busy and productive term.

In early December eight of our singers were also able to join our twin choir, the Rellinger Kantorei, to perform parts of JS Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* (Christmas Oratorio), which the hard-working Repertoire Committee plans to have us singing with the Kantorei in Crowborough in late November 2019.

We are now looking forward to our Spring term, culminating in a concert on 13 April entitled 'From Tallis to Tavener: 500 years of English Choral Music'. The first half of the

programme contains music by Tallis, Purcell, Boyce and Tavener, with John Rutter's *Magnificat* completing the programme as the second half of the concert. Andrew will once more be accompanying us at Rotherfield Church.

Whatever we sing in future however, we have a really pressing problem in that we only have a small number of basses. Delighted though we are that Roger Povey has recently joined us, we still need to recruit more! Please go out and talk to people (especially deep-voiced men!) about the choir and encourage them to give singing with CCS a try; there may be free singing lessons available!

I look forward to seeing you all on 9 January for our first rehearsal this term.

Keith
Chair



Our Armistice Concert was a very moving occasion. Huge thanks go to soloist Andrew Mackenzie Wicks, narrator John Marsh, organist Andrew Wilson and our instrumentalists.

Dates for your Diary 2019

First rehearsal Winter/Spring term	9 January
Tallis to Tavener: 500 Years of English Choral Music, St Denys, Rotherfield	13 April
An Evening with Rogers & Hammerstein, United Church, Crowborough	22 June

Magnificent Magnificat

When putting together the programme for our concert in April, Mark and the Repertoire Committee felt it would be good to balance the first half of the programme, which consists of several works covering five centuries, with a single longer 20th century work to sing in the second half. What better than to choose John Rutter's Magnificat, first performed in 1990.

The Magnificat – a poetic outpouring of praise, joy and trust in God, ascribed by Luke to the Virgin Mary on learning that she was to give birth to Christ – traditionally formed part of the ancient service of Vespers. After the Reformation it was incorporated into the evening services of the Lutheran and Anglican churches.

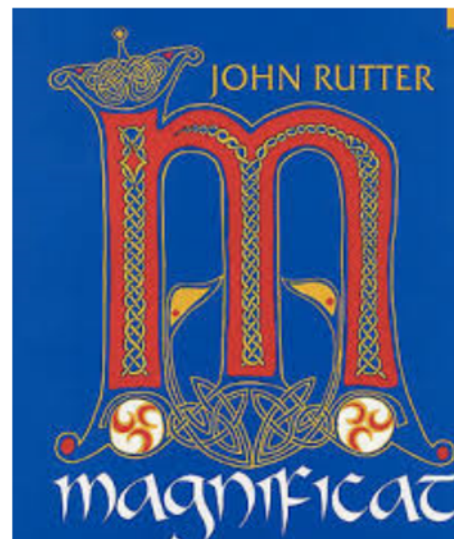
The Magnificat has been set to music more often than any liturgical text other than the Mass itself, in settings that vary enormously in style and scale. John Rutter's initial inspiration

for his Magnificat was that of JS Bach. While the two works are very different in style, they share certain similarities. For example both make use of traditional Gregorian plainsong melodies. And, just as Bach included several additional movements in his Magnificat, Rutter also incorporates extra elements into the standard Latin text. These include his setting of the anonymous 15th century poem, 'Of a Rose, a lovely Rose', in which the poet imagines Jesus as a rose springing from Mary.

In countries like Spain, Mexico and Puerto Rico, feast days of the Virgin Mary are joyous opportunities to take to the streets and celebrate with singing, dancing and processions, and John Rutter has said that his intention was to write a Magnificat that evoked the spirit of these festivals. However, alongside Latin-American rhythms he includes beautiful lyrical movements.

Choirs and audiences all over the

world have responded enthusiastically to what one reviewer calls the 'uninhibited tunefulness' of the piece. If you haven't sung the Magnificat before, you're in for a treat!



100 Club news

Happy New Year to 100 Clubbers new and old — I mean loyal, long standing members!

We have now had two of our six draws for the 2018–19 season, with a top bonus prize of £60 of the four prizes awarded in December. There have been seven winners so far. It is always of great satisfaction to me if someone who has never won before gets a prize (one of the perks of the job!).

There are another four draws to go, with another extra bonus £60 prize at Easter.

As ever I want to thank all our loyal members who help to swell the choir funds, to help us perform in quality concerts at a time of ever rising costs, which is the very essence of our Society.

Of course, if anyone new would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season I would be delighted.

The cost is £10. I would be pleased to receive your money and add you to our list.

Good luck for 2019!

See you in January.

Joyce



From the Treasurer

The annual subscription for the year 2018/19 fell due on **14 November**. Many thanks to the great majority of you who have already paid your subscription. Would those of you with subs still outstanding please pay them as soon as possible.

The subscription is **£115**. It can be paid either:

by BACS (i.e. electronic bank transfer) to the account of Crowborough Choral Society

A/c no 63975320; s/c 20-45-45; or by cheque sent to Andrew Fermor at Old Milk Lodge, Church Road, Rotherfield TN6 3LA.

Cheques should be made payable to **Crowborough Choral Society**.

Many thanks

Andrew



Next term's music

Mark is planning to produce a compilation of the shorter pieces that will comprise the first half of our Easter programme. This will be for purchase only and I presume will be the usual £5. The second half of the programme will be the Magnificat by Rutter. Copies will be available to hire for £2 each and to buy for £10.50 each. Quite a few of you should have this already so remember to bring it with you to the first rehearsal! Many thanks.

Sheila

